"WHEREAS, The College should have an organ in the Gospel Preacher and,

WHEREAS, It is evident that there is not the co-operation between the paper and the College that the interest of the Institution demands. Therefore,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the matter."

Elders George Irvin and P. J. Brown were appointed.

The report of this committee is not recorded, but the cause of the want of harmony was probably the state of feeling between the editor and the Pres. of the College; again the paper was working to secure a larger circulation and they had reason to expect subscribers where there was an interest in another school and the editor was very careful not to give offence in that direction.

During the spring of 1880 the trustees began to urge Pres. Sharp to go out and canvass for funds and students. His work in the school was so arranged that he could go and he agreed to go, but did not and other differences coming up, a committee was appointed on June 9, 1880 to wait upon Pres. Sharp and request him to resign his position and accept a chair in the College. Wm. Sadler, George Irvin, and A. Mcherman were appointed and reported that he would not accept a professorship. It was reported unofficially that he said he would die first, but I cannot, at this time, vouch for the statement. Though he was very decided at this time, at the next meeting, June 22, 1880, he presented the following letter:

ASHLAND, OHIO, JUNE 22, 1880.

To the Honorable Board of Trustees of Ashland College,

BRETHREN:—As my term ot office as Pres. of Ashland College expires this day, with that of the first Board of trustees, I would inform you that I am not a candidate for re-election. Having secured the editorship of all the Sunday School literature in the brotherhood, it will require the attention I formerly gave the business part of Ashland College as its President. But I would be willing to continue as professor of Mental and Moral Science and to act as principal of the Normal Department of the College.

Fraternally,

S. Z. SHARP.

On receipt of this letter the Board passed the following:

"WHEREAS, Bro. S. Z. Sharp declines a re-election as President of Ashland College for reasons stated in his letter herewith appended. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we as a Board of trustees bear testimony to Bro. Sharp's ability and success as an instructor and desire to express our gratification that we are not to lose his service as a member of the faculty.

2. That we believe that Bro. Sharp will bring to his new duties as editor of the Sunday School literature the ability and devotion that will insure successful work in that important department of church labor.

3. That these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the Board and be published in the Gospel Preacher, Brethren at Work, Progressive Christian and Primitive Christian."

I regard this as an ingenious specimen of white washing on both sides, but the re-action came. I have no doubt but that the Board hoped that Prof. Sharp would submit quietly to work under Eld. R. H. Miller the new President, but I do not believe that any one of them really expected it. They acted in good faith, however, and elected him to an honorable position in the school with a salary of seven hundred dollars.

The first suspicion of rising trouble is found in the minutes of the Board meeting of Sept. 14, 1880, where we find the following resolution recorded:

"*Resolved*, That we demand the books, notes and papers belonging to the College in the hands of Bro. Sharp, and final settlement must be made before we pay him any more money."

On the same date we find that though Bro. Sharp had expressed his willingness to accept such a position he had not really accepted for at this meeting a committee was appointed to wait upon him for his decision.

It now became known that Prof. Sharp's books were in very bad shape for on Oct. 12th, the committee appointed to settle with him reported that they had not yet been able to affect a final settlement and the committee was continued and Prof. Stubbs was added "as a helper."

On Nov. 9th, the committee's report was asked for but they were not ready to report, and on Dec. 15th, we find the matter still unsettled but the committee was ordered to report at next meeting. In the meantime other matters came up and the executive committee composed of Brethren A. M. Dickey, Austin Moherman, Richard Arnold, J. N. Roop and H. K. Myers dismissed Bro. Sharp from the faculty without settlement. This action of the executive committee was approved at a called meeting of the Board Dec. 29, 1880, by the following vote:

Yeas, Irvin, Parker, Moherman, Dickey, Arnold, Myers and Roop, No. Yoder.

I publishing a statement concerning this action the Board again failed to do itself justice, being restrained by a respect for the feelings ot Prof. Sharp whom they still regarded as a brother.

They, however, passed the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That inasmuch as brethren S. Z. Sharp and E. C. Packer have been heretofore intimately connected with Ashland College, the former as Prof. and General Solicitor and the latter as solicitor, and as their connection is by the Board of Trustees this day, Dec. 29, 1880, declared severed, we deem it necessary to make this public statement.

We do not desire to enter into the details of the of the cause for this action, but let it suffice the public to know that the line of policy pursued by Prof. Sharp and E. C. Packer and that of the Board of Trustees do not harmonize sufficiently to warrant the continued success of the Institution.

All communications relating to donations and subscriptions for the College should be addressed to the President R. H. Miller."

At the next meeting Jan. 11, 1881, we find that the committee to settle with Bro. Sharp was not yet ready to report, and was continued.

About this time it became apparent that there was so much feeling between Prof. Sharp and the Board that they could not arrive at a satisfactory settlement, so an attempt was made at arbitration. The Board chose James Quinter and Bro. Sharp selected Elder Geo. W. Cripe and these two selected Eld. Jacob Rife as the third man.

This committee met with the Ashland City Church early in April 1881, which meeting was noticed in the part concerning the church.

The Board through the new President, Eld. R. H. Miller, presented the following:

CHARGES AGAINST S. Z. SHARP.

For misrepresentation and deception in a number of transactions.

1. In the case of obtaining paper in the name of J. C. Stubbs and Bro.

2. For representing that he would solicit money to build a Boarding Hall and then not doing it.

3. For telling the trustees one thing and the students another as to the time set for the close of the first year.

4. For agreeing to work with the trustees during his last term in the College and then refusing to do so.

5. For representing outside that unprincipled parties were interfering with the work of the College.

6. For representing that S. H. Bashor controlled the trustees.

And for advising the taking of some of the River Brethren into the Owl Creek church, in Knox Co., Ohio, without baptizing them.

And for representing in his preaching that it is right to lay the order before the applicant secretly and then himself doing it publicly.

For the above we demand that his offices in the church be taken from him.

The counter charges I cannot give in full, because the record is lost, but the latter part of the fourth is:

"For electing J. E. Stubbs (to the Vice presidency) for the purpose of inducing him to join the Church of the Brethren."

This was denied.

5. Charge against certain trustees of Ashland College for demanding of S. Z. Sharp to work for their interest whether right or wrong.

6. For dismissing S. Z. Sharp from service in the College in an unchristian manner without due cause or notice.

7. For publishing in the Gospel Preacher certain articles reflecting against the reputation of S. Z. Sharp as an educator and a Christian and injurious to him in his business relation."

Eld. R. H. Miller as attorney for the trustees made the following statement:

"In his misrepresentations he has been so self-willed that we could not get him to yield in any matter of our troubles, and that he has, in spite of all the forbearance of the trustees and the church, persisted in his own course, whereby he has brought upon us all the troubles we are now involved in, and for these reasons we demand that he shall be relieved of his offices."

It will be remembered that Elder Sharp had been relieved of the charge of the Ashland City Church prior to this time, and while the committee did not deprive him of his offices, it required him to make an humble acknowledgement for his wrong doing but allowed him to retain his standing on account of his family and his previous reputation in the General Brotherhood.

Bro. Miller in the editorial department of the Gospel Preacher in the issue of April 12, 1881, says:

"Ashland College is now out of her troubles and stands in the sunshine of peace. She will be a success if energy and activity can bring it about."

But little did he comprehend the nature of the man with whom he had to deal, for within two months after the committee had made the decision, Elder Sharp was before the Standing Committee of Annual Meeting and so strong were his (mis)representations that he secured a committee to review the case. As the A. M. Report of 1881 has it:

Ashland City church, Ohio, to settle difficulties growing out of a decision of a formor committee, John Wise, C. G. Lint, E. Eby, Jos. Kauffman, I. J. Rosenberger.

This committee met at Ashland about August 1st, 1881, and Bro. Sharp railed against the former committee, the Trustees of Ashland College and especially Elder R. H. Miller, President of the College in such a manner that the committee saw fit to deprive him of all his offices in the church and charged him to settle with the Board according to the books on penalty of removal from the church. One thing said before this committee was that the Trustees had dismissed him as President of the College and elected in his place Elder Miller, a man who could not get a certificate for six months to teach in a common country school.

In referring to this committee the Gospel Preacher, edited by Elder Miller says:

"The committee sent by Annual Meeting to Ashland, was in session here last week. * * * We are glad to say that all the troubles connected with the College are now settled."

But he reckoned without his host again, for when it was attempted to make a financial settlement with Bro. Sharp, he said that "the books" meant *his* books, which were some hundreds of dollars "short," and so a settlement was never arrived at, for on March 14, 1882, we find that Sharp demanded money of the Board and the following was passed:

"*Resolved*, That we answer Bro. Sharp's request as follows:

Our understanding was that the Committee was sent by the Standing Committee to investigate your Committee being bribed, etc., and they decided you were wrong and took away your eldership for your actions, and substantiated what the former committee did and we have carried out fully on our part the decision of the first committee and have paid you up in full."

I had not intended to introduce anything like church controversy into this statement, but facts are facts. Four of this same committee went at once to Berlin and dismissed Elder H. R. Holsinger from the church without any formal charges, and myself and twenty-five others of the Ashland City church were disfellowshipped for accepting him as a minister, though he brought a letter sworn to by a Notary Public, while the Lanark and Mt. Morris and many other churches receive Sharp as an Elder and nothing is said or done.

And now I appeal to Elders John Wise, C. G. Lint, Enoch Eby, Jos. Kauffman, I. J. Rosenberger of the Committee, Elder R. H. Miller, the Prosecutor, Elders I. D. Parker, Geo. Irvin, Wm. Sadler and A. M. Dickey who were then on the Board of Trustees, to inform me and the brotherhood and the world of thisstatement is not substantially true.

I conjure them to give answer why the action of this committee was never reported to Annual Meeting and why Solomon Z. Sharp is received everywhere as an elder when his office was taken away by this committee at Ashland on the 4th day of August in the year of Grace, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one.